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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for rescheduling travel arrangements comprising the steps of:

- obtaining current travel information for a user to identify a current status of travel of the user;

- responsive to a real-time change in status in at least one segment of a prearranged travel plan for the user, determining whether the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan;

- automatically altering the downstream segments of the travel plan according to the rule set, if the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan; and

- automatically contacting at least one agency computing device to modify travel accommodations associated with the travel plan in accordance with the altered downstream segments.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- retrieving the prearranged travel plan from a storage device; and

- comparing the prearranged travel plan to the current travel information, wherein a real-time change in status in at least one segment of the prearranged travel plan is determined if a result of the comparison indicates a

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discrepancy between the prearranged travel plan and the current travel information.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the prearranged travel plan is obtained as travel arrangements are finalized by a user via at least one web site.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the prearranged travel plan is obtained by receiving user input to at least one Web form provided by at least one server, identifying information regarding segments of the prearranged travel plan.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the rule set includes information indicating under what conditions a discrepancy between the prearranged travel plan and the current travel information is to be resolved by altering downstream segments of the prearranged travel plan.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the rule set further includes information indicating a manner by which a discrepancy is to be resolved.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically contacting at least one agency computing device to modify travel accommodations associated with the travel plan includes:

negotiating with the at least one agency computing device to obtain new travel accommodations; and

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applying user established preferences to the negotiation with the at least one agency computing device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the user established preferences indicate a user preference regarding at least one of a preferred type of travel accommodation and a preferred vendor of a travel accommodation.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
identifying a plurality of prearranged travel plans for a plurality of users in a travel plan storage device;
for each prearranged travel plan, determining if the travel plan is currently active; and
performing the steps of obtaining, determining, altering and contacting for each currently active prearranged travel plan in the travel plan storage device.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the current travel information is obtained from at least one current travel information source computing device.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the at least one current travel information source computing device includes at least one of an airline computing system, a travel agency computing system, a transportation provider computing system, a lodging provider computing system, and a government agency computing system.

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12. The method of claim 10, wherein the at least one current travel information source includes an Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) computing system.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

 sending a notification to a communication device associated with the user indicating the altered downstream segments of the travel plan and the modified travel accommodations.

14. A system for rescheduling travel arrangements comprising:

 means for obtaining current travel information for a user to identify a current status of travel of the user;

 means for determining, responsive to a real-time change in status in at least one segment of a prearranged travel plan for the user, whether the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan;

 means for automatically altering the downstream segments of the travel plan according to the rule set, if the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan; and

 means for automatically contacting at least one agency computing device to modify travel accommodations associated with the travel plan in accordance with the altered downstream segments.

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15. The system of claim 14, further comprising:

means for retrieving the prearranged travel plan from a storage device; and

means for comparing the prearranged travel plan to the current travel information, wherein a real-time change in status in at least one segment of the prearranged travel plan is determined if a result of the comparison indicates a discrepancy between the prearranged travel plan and the current travel information.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the rule set includes information indicating under what conditions a discrepancy between the prearranged travel plan and the current travel information is to be resolved by altering downstream segments of the prearranged travel plan.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the rule set further includes information indicating a manner by which a discrepancy is to be resolved.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein the means for automatically contacting at least one agency computing device to modify travel accommodations associated with the travel plan includes:

means for negotiating with the at least one agency computing device to obtain new travel accommodations; and

means for applying user established preferences to the negotiation with the at least one agency computing device.

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19. The system of claim 18, wherein the user established preferences indicate a user preference regarding at least one of a preferred type of travel accommodation and a preferred vendor of a travel accommodation.

20. The system of claim 14, further comprising:

means for identifying a plurality of prearranged travel plans for a plurality of users in a travel plan storage device;

means for determining, for each prearranged travel plan, if the travel plan is currently active; and

means for enabling the means for obtaining, means for determining, means for altering and means for contacting, for each currently active prearranged travel plan in the travel plan storage device.

21. The system of claim 14, wherein the current travel information is obtained from at least one current travel information source computing device.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one current travel information source computing device includes at least one of an airline computing system, a travel agency computing system, a transportation provider computing system, a lodging provider computing system, and a government agency computing system.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one current travel information source includes an Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) computing system.

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24. The system of claim 14, further comprising:

means for sending a notification to a communication device associated with the user indicating the altered downstream segments of the travel plan and the modified travel accommodations.

25. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for rescheduling travel arrangements comprising:

first instructions for obtaining current travel information for a user to identify a current status of travel of the user;

second instructions for determining, responsive to a real-time change in status in at least one segment of a prearranged travel plan for the user, whether the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan;

third instructions for automatically altering the downstream segments of the travel plan according to the rule set, if the user has provided a rule set for making changes to downstream segments of the travel plan; and

fourth instructions for automatically contacting at least one agency computing device to modify travel accommodations associated with the travel plan in accordance with the altered downstream segments.

26. The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:

fifth instructions for retrieving the prearranged travel plan from a storage device; and

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sixth instructions for comparing the prearranged travel plan to the current travel information, wherein a real-time change in status in at least one segment of the prearranged travel plan is determined if a result of the comparison indicates a discrepancy between the prearranged travel plan and the current travel information.

27. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the fourth instructions for automatically contacting at least one agency computing device to modify travel accommodations associated with the travel plan include:

instructions for negotiating with the at least one agency computing device to obtain new travel accommodations; and

instructions for applying user established preferences to the negotiation with the at least one agency computing device.

28. The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:

fifth instructions for identifying a plurality of prearranged travel plans for a plurality of users in a travel plan storage device;

sixth instructions for determining, for each prearranged travel plan, if the travel plan is currently active; and

seventh instructions for executing the first, second, third and fourth instructions for each currently

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active prearranged travel plan in the travel plan storage device.

29. The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:

 fifth instructions for sending a notification to a communication device associated with the user indicating the altered downstream segments of the travel plan and the modified travel accommodations.

30. A method, in a data processing system, of monitoring a travel itinerary of a traveler, comprising:

 obtaining current travel condition information;
 obtaining a travel itinerary for the traveler;
 comparing the current travel condition information to the travel itinerary to identify differences;

 applying one or more rules to the differences to determine if a modification of travel accommodations in the travel itinerary are necessary; and

 modifying travel accommodations in the travel itinerary if it is determined that a modification of travel accommodations in the travel itinerary is necessary.